

**WNY Christian Basketball League**  
**Rules (updated 11/21/18)**

**Section 1: Purpose**

The WNY Christian Basketball League exists to provide spiritual growth, recreation and fellowship for young people.

The league's theme statement is *"One Team, One Priority: Changed Lives"*

The league's goals are to:

- *Witness and introduce people to Jesus and the Christian life,*
- *Promote fellowship and fun between players,*
- *Practice and demonstrate Christlikeness in leaders, and*
- *Play healthy, fun, competitive basketball.*

**Section 2: Executive Committee / Officers**

- a. The Executive Committee includes one coach per team who each has one vote. Coaches, players, and ministers of any team are welcome to attend any meeting.
- b. The Executive Committee is responsible to:
  - i. Establish rules.
  - ii. Admit or remove teams by a majority vote of a quorum of coaches at a meeting called for such a purpose.
- c. Officers (Director, Assistant Director, Secretary and Treasurer):
  - i. Are elected by the Executive Committee for one-year terms.
  - ii. Cannot be removed except by a quorum of coaches at a meeting called for such a purpose.
- d. The Director:
  - i. Chairs the Executive committee.
  - ii. Casts the vote to break tie votes of the Executive Committee.
  - iii. Has no vote at a protest meeting except to break a tie vote.
  - iv. Relinquishes the chair at a protest meeting if his team is directly involved in the protest. The Assistant Director, Secretary, or Treasurer, in that order, then assumes the chair. If all the above cannot serve due to direct involvement or absence, a non-involved coach chosen by the committee members present then assumes the chair.

Note: League officers, when disqualified to serve as chairman of the protest committee; assume a regular seat on the committee with one vote.
  - v. May call any and all meetings with a minimum of two days' notice.
  - vi. Has the authority to interpret all rules and regulations.
  - vii. Must on written notice from any two teams call a meeting for any purpose they outline.
- e. The Assistant Director is responsible:
  - i. To assist the Director in carrying out his duties.
  - ii. Chairs meetings in the absence of the Director.
- f. The Secretary is responsible:
  - i. For keeping minutes of all meetings and for mailing of all correspondence.
  - ii. Chairs meetings in the absence of the Director and Assistant Director.
- g. The Treasurer is responsible:
  - i. For receiving and recording all franchise fees and other income.
  - ii. For paying necessary disbursements in accordance with the adopted budget.
  - iii. May chair meetings in the absence of the Director, Assistant Director and Secretary.

### Section 3: Quorum

- a. A quorum consists of at least 1/2 the teams being represented by a coach (or substitute).

### Section 4: Eligibility / Rosters

- a. Players must be 18 or under as of the December 31 of the current season. (No player who reaches the age of 19 prior to January 1 of the current season is eligible to play)
- b. Players are encouraged, but not required, to be an active participant at the church they play for. We recognize, and embrace, that this league is now primarily an outreach ministry, and while we hope that players in the league are or become active participants at the church that they play for, this may not happen, and we accept that reality, understanding that our league's ministry may be the only Christian interaction that players have.
- c. Player registration forms must be submitted to the League Director before the **First** game.
- d. When the player registration form is submitted, the following information must be attached:
  - i. Copies of Birth Certificate or other Proof of Age for new players
- e. No new names may be added to the roster after the second game of the regular season.
- f. For organizations that have teams in multiple divisions, players may move up a division, but once they do, they may not move back to the lower division. Players may not move down to a lower division.
- g. Rosters
  - a. If appropriately completed player registration forms are not submitted timely, that team will begin each half of every scheduled game with a Double Technical Foul until resolved.
- h. The Director and/or Coaches have the right to review all rosters. If they declare a player ineligible, all the games that the boy(s) has (have) participated in will be declared forfeits.

### Section 5: Game Rules

- a. Games will be played using current High School Rules amended by the following "house" rules:
  - i. A "running clock" will be used, with the following customizations:
    - First and second halves – each half will be eighteen (18) minutes, with the first sixteen (16) minutes being "running clock" and the last two (2) being "stop clock"
    - Technical fouls are an automatic two points and possession of the ball
    - Overtime periods – two (2) minute "stop clock"
    - The clock will always be stopped in instances where a player fouls out and the coach must replace that player.
  - ii. A team may begin a game with four (4) players, but every roster must contain five (5) players.
  - iii. If a team is not prepared to start a game on time, there will be a five-minute grace period, followed by the game clock starting at five minutes after the hour, and for each minute the clock is run without playing, two points will be awarded to the team who is present, for every minute until the game begins. If the missing team does not show up to play prior to the first half ending, the game will be declared a forfeit.
  - iv. Time outs - Each team has three (3) full time outs per game. There are no "30-second time outs". Time outs may **not** be carried over to overtime periods. One time out will be awarded to each team for each overtime period. The clock will stop during time outs.
- b. Half times: There will be ten minutes between the halves. The first 2 minutes are for team meetings, followed by a buzzer and then spiritual growth time led by a designated team.
- c. Protests: Any protests must be made to the game officials and opposing coach at the time of the incident. A written report must be given or emailed to the League Director by 5pm on the Monday following the incident. The Executive Committee shall rule on the protest.

## **Section 6: Sportsmanship and Administrative Rules and Regulations**

- a. There will be **NO** cursing or swearing. **ALL** violations will result in a technical foul.
- b. If players receive two technical fouls, they are automatically removed from the game. They should only return to the locker room under escort of a coach or assistant coach.
- c. Coaches and players are expected to act in a sportsmanlike manner while in the gymnasium, and **ALSO** away from the gym when interacting with each other.
- d. The Director has responsibility to investigate any and all instances where a player or coach acts in an unsportsmanlike manner that is considered inconsistent with the league purposes. Investigations may be precipitated by technical fouls, reports (from officials, coaches, scorers, fans, etc.), or personal observation. Investigations will include discussions with witnesses (if available) and written reports, which will be required from coaches of players involved. The Director has responsibility for determining appropriate disciplinary actions based on investigations. Discipline will be firm, and may include suspension for a designated number of games. Suspension requires a player to not play for a designated week; however, the player must attend for those designated weeks, sit on the team's bench, and act in a sportsmanlike manner.
- e. An Adult manager or coach is required to be with his team at all times. A team may not play without an authorized adult present.
- f. Only team members and coaches are admitted to the locker room and on the player's bench.
- g. While the Director's team is on the floor, the Assistant Director will be in charge of all procedural decisions. If both teams are on the floor, or if one party is not present, the Secretary or Treasurer (in that order), will be in charge. If no officer is present, the officials are in charge.
- h. The facility will be opened 30 minutes before the beginning of the first game.
- i. There is the possibility that a spectator will disrupt the game or present a danger to players, spectators, coaches, officials or the property. All such incidents, or threats of such incidents, should immediately be brought to the attention of the League Director or substitute who shall use their discretion in the matter. The Director shall have the right to remove any spectator or player as he sees fit for the safe conduct of the league. Additionally, the Director shall have the right to ban that person or persons from future games as he sees necessary for the safe conduct of the league.
- j. Running up scores is considered unsportsmanlike and inconsistent with our purpose. Once a team has a 20-point lead, no pressing is allowed. If a team violates the spirit of this rule, the officials will give the team one warning, followed by a technical foul for each violation.

## Section 7: Post Season

- a. A postseason schedule will be developed each season by the Director that will include participation of all teams.
- b. Eligibility for the playoffs is based on the requirements of (a) participation in at least three regular season games and (b) sportsmanlike conduct through the regular season.
- c. Seeding for postseason will be determined as follows:
  - i. Head to head competition can determine trophies and seeding.
  - ii. Drawing straws can determine only seeding (trophies to be determined by playoff winners).
  - iii. Point scoring and/or point differential plays **NO** factor / role in playoffs.
  - iv. Ties:
    - o If two teams are tied for any position, placing (for trophies and seeding for postseason play) is based on head-to-head competition between the teams during the regular season.
    - o If three teams are tied for first place, seeding is based first by head to head competition and if necessary by "drawing straws". The playoff champion will be deemed the regular season champion. Regular season second place trophies will be given to both other teams.
    - o If three teams are tied for second place, seeding is determined first by head to head competition and if necessary by "drawing straws".
    - o If three teams are tied for third place, seeding is determined by head to head competition. If this still results in a tie, one team will be randomly selected for fourth place. The other two teams will play a special playoff (the winner will be seeded in third place; the loser will be seeded in fifth place).
    - o If three teams are tied for fourth place, seeding will be determined by head-to-head competition. If this still results in a tie, there will be two playoff games, with a drawing by straws to determine who gets a bye.
    - o If four teams tie for first place, seeding will be determined based on head to head competition. If this still results in a tie, teams will "draw straws". The playoff champion will be deemed the regular season champion. Regular season second place trophies will be given to all other teams.
    - o If four teams tie for second, third or fourth place, seeding will be based on head to head competition. If this still results in a tie, there will be two playoff games (placing based on drawing of straws). The two winners advance and any further ties (i.e. for fourth place) will be based on head-to-head competition, with the playoff game superseding the regular season game, if the two teams played twice.
- d. All Star Games, Trophies, Banquet and other matters for the operations of the league shall be the responsibility of a Subcommittee with a Chairperson assigned by the Director.

## **Section 8: Finances**

- a. Teams must pay franchise fees per an annual approved plan. If fees are not timely paid, the offending team will be charged with a Double Technical each half of each game until the fee is paid. The Director shall have the right to grant a grace period regarding payment of the fee only if he feels there are extenuating circumstances that warrant it.

## **Section 9: Officials**

- a. The Director shall appoint a Coordinator of Officials and Rules.
- b. Failure of Officials to appear for a game:
  - i. If one or both referees do not appear for a game, the two coaches will mutually agree on substitutions as needed.
  - ii. If the two coaches cannot agree, the Director will appoint referees as needed.
  - iii. Any referee working alone will be paid twice the normal rate of pay.

## **Section 10: Scoring**

- a. The Director appoints an official league statistician and a scoreboard operator. They maintain the official scoring, fouls, and time-outs. If they do not appear, a volunteer from a non-participating team or another individual agreeable to both participating teams should perform these functions.
- b. If a difference in score exists between the scoreboard and scorebook, the scorebook shall be the official score.